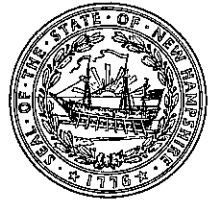




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Martha Fuller-Clark
Senate Energy, Environment, and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: SB 162, relative to lake and pond preservation and making an appropriation therefore

Dear Chairman Fuller-Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 162, which would make an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) to the Lake Restoration and Preservation Fund for control of exotic aquatic plants. DES does not support this bill because it proposes to increase Exotic Aquatic Plants Control Program funding at the expense of LCHIP, which is an equally important program. DES strongly believes that the available LCHIP funds should continue to be dedicated to the core purpose of the LCHIP program, which is to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important cultural and historic resources.

The House Resources, Recreation and Development (RR&D) Committee currently is considering HB 205 FN, which proposes to increase funding for Exotic Aquatic Weed Control and Prevention Grants by increasing existing boat registration fees for this purpose. DES supports HB 205 FN as a means to increase existing funding by increasing the traditional funding source for this program rather than transferring monies from a fund intended for another purpose.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Jody Connor at 271-3414, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Michael Walls, Asst. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senator Lou D'Allesandro
Senator John Gallus
Representative Richard Drisko